



July 16, 2025

Via Electronic Submittal (E-File)

Debbie-Anne Reese, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
Division of Hydropower Administration and Compliance
888 First Street, NE
Washington, D.C. 20426

**RE: Potter Valley Hydroelectric Project, FERC No. 77-CA
Temporary Minimum Instream Flow Amendment Request –
Responses to Additional Information Request**

Dear Secretary Reese:

This letter presents Pacific Gas and Electric Company's (PG&E) responses to address the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERC) additional information request (AIR) for PG&E's minimum instream flow (MIF) variance request for PG&E's Potter Valley Hydroelectric Project, FERC No. 77. PG&E received FERC's comments in a letter dated June 30, 2025.

PG&E's responses to FERC's AIR are enclosed with this letter as (Enclosure 1). If you have questions, please contact Chadwick McCready, license coordinator for PG&E, at (530) 685-5710.

Sincerely,

Matthew Joseph,
Supervisor, Hydro License Compliance

Enclosure:

1. Responses to FERC's AIR Regarding PG&E's Temporary MIF Variance Request.

ENCLOSURE 1

Potter Valley Hydroelectric Project, FERC No. 77
Responses to FERC Additional Information Request
Regarding PG&E's Temporary Minimum Instream Flow Amendment
Request

In a letter to Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) dated June 30, 2025, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) provided an Additional Information Request (AIR) regarding PG&E's temporary minimum instream flow variance request for PG&E's Potter Valley Project, FERC No. 77. For reference, FERC's comments are copied below, followed by followed by PG&E's responses (in italics).

- C-1:** Please provide a detailed map with the conduit and seasonal creek that will be utilized for flow delivery to the East Branch Russian River while the penstock repairs are being completed, including an estimate of the length of the seasonal creek that will be watered to convey the flows and the length of the East Branch Russian River that will be simultaneously dewatered during this variance. Please also identify on the map, where the staff gage will be placed to ensure flow compliance throughout the variance.

Please see Figure 1 below for a map detailing where water will be released from the conduit into a seasonal stream to provide minimum instream flows to the East Branch Russian River (EBRR). The seasonal creek that will convey flows to the EBRR is approximately 3,900 ft. Please note that no portion of the EBRR will be dewatered as part of the proposed temporary flow amendment.

- C-2:** As rationale for scheduling this variance request in November 2025, you state that this additional variance occurring in the cooler/wet season will have minimal impacts on aquatic resources compared to other possible periods. You have already submitted a variance request to reduce E-16 flows, filed on February 14, 2025, that is currently pending before the Commission. Please provide an explanation as to why these repairs cannot be completed during the flow variance you already requested, which would also permit you to reduce E-16 minimum flows from 25 cfs to 5 cfs, until at least September 30 in the East Branch Russian River, if approved. In addition, please provide analyses of anticipated cumulative effects from this variance request in addition to the first variance (if approved) period through September 2025.

The penstock and staves repair effort cannot be completed during the flow variance pending before the Commission because PG&E releases up to 50 cubic feet per second (cfs) to Potter Valley Irrigation District (PVID) from April 15 to October 15. The PVID contract water releases in addition to the 25 cfs to 5 cfs EBRR releases would exceed the capacity of the seasonal creek and conduit. PG&E is requesting this additional variance occurring in the cooler/wet season because releases to PVID shall not exceed 5 cfs from October 16 to April 14.

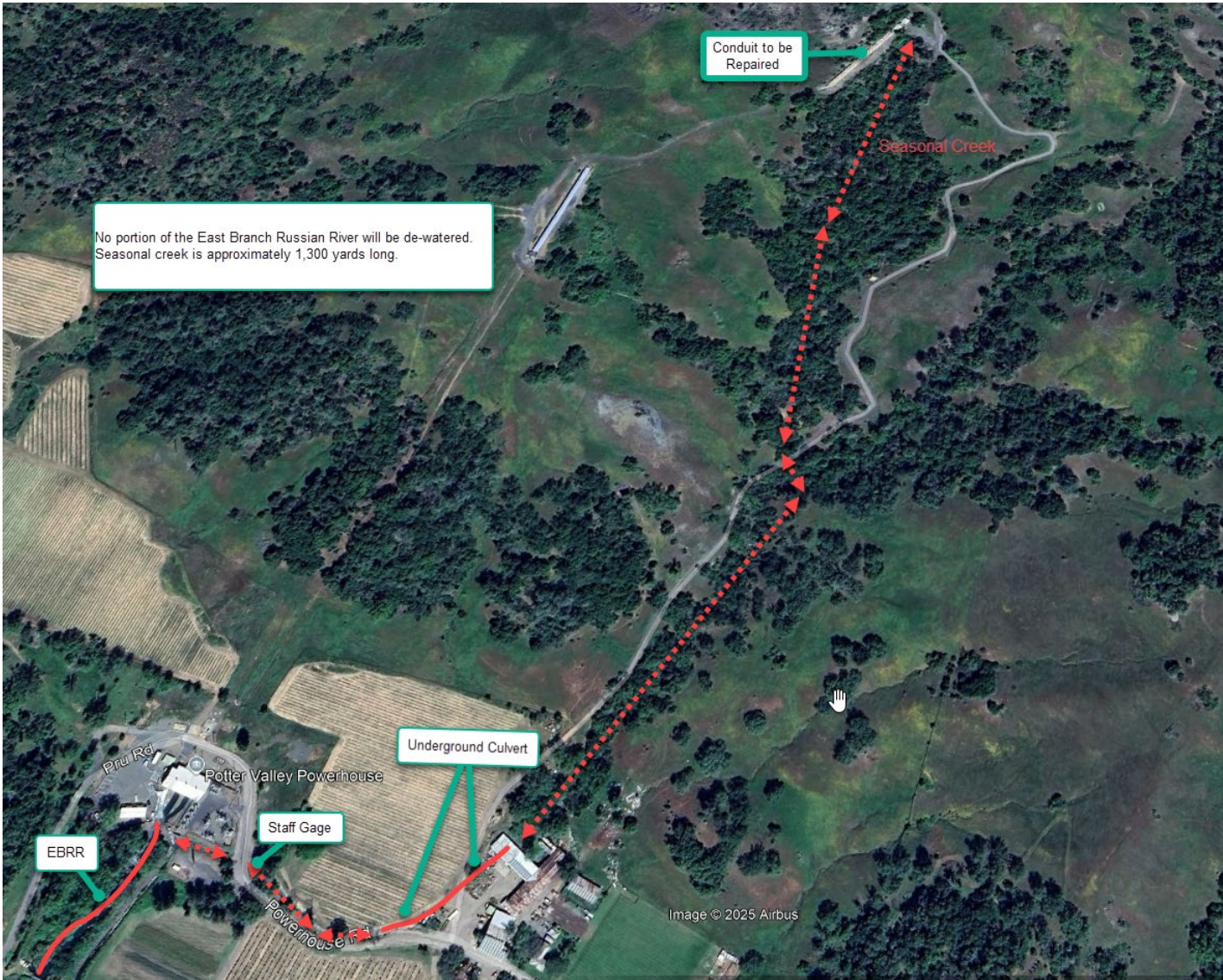


Figure 1: Map detailing the location of the release conduit, seasonal drainage channel, and staff gage that will be utilized under the temporary flow amendment.